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D. N. Shoemaker.

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Agriculture.

# MY GARDEN

## AND WHAT TO GROW



No. 34      DECEMBER 1923      Gratis

ISSUED BY THE ASSOCIATED FIRMS:

**C. STARKE & CO. LTD.**      **CHARLES AYRES**

*Agricultural & Horticultural  
Seedsmen & Nurserymen*

**MOWBRAY**  
Cape Town  
Telephone 585 Woodstock  
Telegrams: "Seedstarke,  
Mowbray."

*The Cape Florist, Nurseryman  
and Seedsman  
(Telephone 561 Woodstock)*

*The Nurseries, Liesbeek Road,  
**ROSEBANK**, Cape Town.*

*Seed Store: 118 St. George's St.  
Phone 778 Central  
Telegrams: "Ayres."*

## The Empire Garden Rake and Cultivator.

The Empire Garden Cultivator with its oblique teeth and specially turned prongs is an entirely new creation in Cultivators.

Push it from you or pull it towards you and it turns the soil in two directions. A double action that quickly breaks up the clods and puts the ground in excellent condition for seeding and planting.

Price, with handle, 4/3 each.





## SUMMER CULTIVATION.

Cultivation—careful and continuous—is the keynote this month. At the Cape it is necessary to keep down the weeds that would, otherwise, take from the soil the priceless moisture which is seldom replaced by rains in Summer. In the North it is equally necessary because the weeds would otherwise crowd the crop by their rapid growth under the favourable conditions of heat and moisture that prevail under a summer rainfall. This cultivation, which is so necessary to keep down the weeds, is amply repaid by other benefits also. Where there is drought it creates a soil blanket which very effectively prevents evaporation and where there is moisture it helps to open up the surface soil and allows the penetration of air which is so beneficial to the plant.

Surely a practice that has so many advantages should be the first consideration of the Farmer or the Gardener, but unfortunately it is too often neglected.

The main points to aim at are a deeply worked but compacted subsoil and a loose surface soil. These conditions are at all times beneficial to each and every crop and to be successful all your attention must be concentrated on methods that will produce them. This matter of cultivation of the soil combined with proper drainage—about which we have frequently written in these notes—is probably the most important in farming and gardening practice. Until you have mastered it you cannot possibly be entirely successful.

In this work it is essential that you should provide your workmen with implements that will help them to carry out the necessary work conveniently and expeditiously. It is easy to calculate that a particular implement will rapidly repay its own cost by the time saved on the work, but that is not all. If the implement is available and in good order for immediate use it will often be put into operation at odd times between other jobs and work will be done that would otherwise be crowded out by matters that appear at the moment to be more urgent. In short, with the implement at hand the work is done and without it the work is neglected to the detriment of the crop.

For the farmer with broad acres a horse cultivator may be the best implement to buy and a "Planet Jr." Horse Hoe will give the very best results. There are several types to choose from.

For the market gardener with a fairly large garden it may be that a "Planet Jr." Hand Wheel Hoe will serve best. There are many types of these implements—a pattern to suit every need.

For the smaller gardener and for the private garden the **Norcros** Cultivator is the implement that fits the purpose best. There are three sizes—the 5-prong for loose sandy soil, the 3-prong for heavier loam and the Midget weeder with short handle. The 3-prong suits splendidly for flower beds as it will work in and among the plants without injuring them, almost like the human hand—and it is inexpensive.

We can supply all these implements and when you are wanting any of them, please ask for particulars.



## THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

**Seeds to Sow.**—Where conditions are favourable you may sow the following Vegetable Seeds in December: Asparagus, Beet, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Calabash, Carrot, Cauliflower, Celery, Chicory, Cucumber, Dandelion, Egg Plant, Endive, French Beans (Dwarf), Herbs (various), Leek, Lettuce, Lentils, Lima Beans, Musk Melon, Mustard and Cress, Onions, Parsley, Pepper, Peas, Pop Corn, Pumpkin, Radish, Runner Beans, Salsify, Scorzonera, Seakale, Sorrel, Spinach, Squash, Sweet Corn, Swede, Swiss Chard, Tomato, Turnip, Vegetable Marrow and Water Melon.

When we say these may be sown now we do not mean that it is the best time to sow them, but most of us like to have a good succession of vegetables and thus it becomes necessary to sow some of them out of season and make the conditions suit them as near as we can. Apart from vegetables that are sown in this way for a succession the main items this month are Brussels Sprouts, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower and Kale. Seed should be sown now to produce early plants for the winter crop when these things are at their best. For sowing now the late varieties should be chosen. The word "late" in connection with seeds almost invariably means long-standing or late-maturing and it is not advisable to choose the quicker growing varieties for sowing now in the hot weather. The slower kinds are much steadier for these conditions and likely to give larger specimens of good quality.

The early or quick-growing varieties may be used a little later when time is short. In some vegetables the early varieties are not so hardy and such should not be sown at a time when they will suffer, while young, from extreme cold. We think that if growers get to understand these terms better they will be able to make a better choice of varieties to suit particular conditions and particular seasons. Conditions and seasons vary throughout the country and it is not possible for us to tell you exactly what to do. We hope, therefore, that by putting information forward in this way we may be helping the greatest number possible.

**Seed Potatoes.**—The Early Rose and Up-to-Date varieties from France, mentioned last month, arrived in excellent condition and at the time of writing both are practically sold out.

We can still supply:—

**King George V. Seed Potatoes** (S.A. grown) at 12/6 per case.

The English Seed is now on the way from England and should arrive before this leaflet reaches you. The following varieties will be available:—

**Ally.**—A Scotch variety of recent introduction. It is a very heavy cropper of the finest quality. Per case 16/6.

**Arran Chief.**—One of the best Scotch varieties and now well known in South Africa. Per case 16/6.

**Evergood.**—A great favourite overseas, where it is taking the place of Up-To-Date and giving very general satisfaction as a heavy cropper of good quality. Per case 16/6.

**King Edward.**—A late variety of great merit. Per case 16/6.

**Majestic.**—An early-main-crop variety of kidney shape. A very heavy cropper. Per case 16/6.

**All Potatoes are quoted subject to 5 per cent. Cash Discount,**



VEGETABLE TRANSPLANTS.				Per 100	1000
Beet, Eclipse	...	...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Spinach, Yellow Cutting	...	...	...	1/3	10/6
Broccoli, White Mammoth	...	...	...	2/-	
Brussels Sprouts	...	...	...	2/-	
Cabbage, Cape Spitzkool	...	...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Cape Sugarloaf	...	...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Dwarf Early Savoy	...	...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Enkhuizen's Glory	...	...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Early Jersey Wakefield	...	...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Large Oxheart	...	...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Large Red Drumhead	...	...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Robinson's Ch. Drumhead	...	...	...	1/3	10/6
Cauliflower, Woodside Early and Italian Giant	1/9				15/-
Cape Gooseberries, 2/6 dozen.	...	...	...	15/-	
Celery, Solid White, 6d. dozen	...	...	...	2/6	
Kale, Curled Garden	...	...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Thousand Headed	...	...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Chou Moellier	...	...	...	1/3	10/6
Kohl-Rabi, Purple	...	...	...	1/3	10/6
Lettuce, Giant Crystal Head	...	...	...	1/3	10/6
„ Curled Neapolitan	...	...	...	1/3	10/6
Leek, Large Flag	...	...	...	1/3	10/6
Mangold, Yellow Globe and Long Red	...	...	...	1/3	8/6
Onion, Brown Spanish	...	...	...	1/3	8/6
Parsley, Plain and Curled, 6d. dozen.	...	...	...	2/6	
Pepper, Sweet Spanish, 1/- dozen.					
„ Woodside Pyramid, 1/- dozen.					
Sage, Marjoram and Thyme, 3/- dozen.					
Peppermint, 1/6 dozen.					
Mint, 1/- dozen.					
Spinach, New Zealand, 6d. dozen.					
Tomatoes.					
Ponderosa, Wood's Improved Beauty, Liv-	} All at 6d. doz.,				
ington's Coreless, ...		...	...	2/6	100

### THE FRUIT GARDEN.

Have you noticed an occasional moth hovering around and alighting on your orange and other citrus trees at this time of the year? The moths are very pretty, but as they are laying the eggs from which tiny caterpillars will shortly be hatching to devour the leaves of your trees, you must choose between the pretty moth and the oranges. One spraying with Arsenate of Lead during December should suffice to prevent any serious damage.

### FARM CROPS.

We can offer **Velvet Beans** at very moderate prices this season. Quotations were given in "Farm Crops" for September, but we are now able to quote a lower price for the "Stingless" variety.

**Stingless Velvet Beans**, Per lb 6d, 25 lbs 7/6, 100 lbs 25/-

**The New Blanket Vine.**—This is a rapid growing leguminous climber that is said to be doing remarkably well under cultivation in Rhodesia. Its value is as a fodder plant and also for green manuring. It is a summer grower and should be sown now. Would you like to have a free trial packet?



The September issue of "Farm Crops" is still available and we shall be glad to send a copy to any applicant. Please say if you would like your name on the permanent list for it.

### THE FLOWER GARDEN.

Last month we printed an extensive list of Dahlias. Young plants of most of the varieties are still available. These young plants usually give very fine blooms in January to March and the tubers produced from them are excellent for growing on next season. Some have apparently expected to get tubers, but tubers are not available at this time of the year, any that were left over after the August delivery, having started into growth, are unsuitable for sending out now. Perhaps in January we may have some imported tubers to offer. We have ordered a good supply of new and recently introduced varieties and there will be more than we shall need for stock plants. Particulars will be published in due course. The imported tubers are easily acclimatised because they will start in to growth at once if planted on arrival and will become dormant in the late autumn just like locally grown plants. This will be an excellent opportunity to obtain some new sorts and we feel sure the great improvement that is found in the newer kinds will be fully appreciated.

**Seeds to Sow.**—Where conditions are favourable you may sow the following Flower Seeds in December:—Althaea, Antirrhinum, Aquilegia, Aristolochia, Aster, Balsam, Begonia, Carnation, Chelone, Cineraria, Coleus, Convolvulus, Coreopsis, Cosmos, Dahlia, Dianthus, Gaillardia, Geranium, Gerbera, Globe Amaranth, Gloxinia, Gypsophila, Hollyhock, Hunnemannia, Kennedya, Marigold, Nasturtium, Pelargonium, Petunia, Phlox, Portulaca, Primula, Salpiglossis, Scabious, Statice, Stocks, Sunflower, Sweet William, Sweet Sultan, Swainsonia, Zinnia.

**Delphiniums.**—We have received new season's seed of Kelway's Splendid Delphiniums and this may be sown at once. The seed does not retain its vitality very long and it is therefore best to sow as early as possible. If the weather is hot the seed pans or beds will have to be shaded but these beautiful herbaceous perennials are well worth any trouble that may be necessary to make sure of a good number of plants for flowering next spring. We offer the following:—

			Per pkt.	Per oz.
Delphinium	Belladonna	...	6d	30/-
"	Mixed Hybrids	...	6d	10/6
"	"Langport" Strain, Dark Blue	...		
	Shades	...	6d	30/-
"	"Langport" Strain, Light Blue	...		
	Shades	...	6d	30/-
"	"Blue Butterfly," a smaller type, usually treated as an annual, very pretty	...	6d	10/6

**Barborton Daisies.**—New season's seed is available at present and if sown now the plants should be strong enough to set out next winter. The seed should be sown in deep pots or the open ground if a suitable situation can be found. They want deep soil because the roots are long and straight and the seedlings never thrive in shallow pans for that reason. Give



them plenty of sunlight and moisture in summer, merely shading the seed bed until the young plants are strong enough to stand the hot sun.

Barberton Daisy, Scarlet Twelve seeds for 6d; 2/6 per 100

Barberton Daisy, Hybrids Twelve seeds for 6d; 2/6 per 100

**Mesembrianthemums.**—All varieties listed last month are still available. Always give them “a place in the sun.” They will not tolerate shade. All varieties at 3/6 per dozen or 6d each.

## RAISING PLANTS FROM SEED.

(Contributed).

Even the very best seeds will not grow under unfavourable conditions or if they do succeed in germinating they are not likely to give very good results. Some of the principal causes of failure are:—

(1) **Unfavourable Soil Conditions.**—Soil in which seed is to be sown should be well broken up and brought to a fine and friable condition. If it is at all clayey a good dressing of agricultural lime will help to break it up and a fair quantity of leaf mould, sand or well rotted manure should be well mixed in to a depth of 10 to 12 inches. The surface should be raked level and well mulched. If these precautions are not taken the surface will cake after watering and so prevent germination.

(2) **Soil too cold.**—This is usually the case in low-lying, badly drained soils; rather select a well drained sunny spot for your seed beds, or if this is impossible the beds should be raised.

(3) **Insufficiency of Moisture.**—Never allow your seed beds to dry out, especially if the soil is at all sandy, as one really warm day is sufficient to scorch off the seedlings when they are just breaking through the soil. During the warm weather it is often necessary to sprinkle the beds three or four times during the day until the plants are about an inch above the ground, or shading may be resorted to.

(4) **Climatic Conditions.**—Few seeds will germinate satisfactorily during very cold or very wet weather, especially the more tender varieties of flower seeds.

(5) **Covering too deeply.**—Seed should never be covered too deeply and the smaller the seed the thinner the covering must be and then, of course, greater precautions are necessary to prevent drying out of the surface soil.

(6) **Inferior Seed.**—The remedy is obvious—buy only from reliable firms who are regularly testing their seeds. Seed that has been tested costs more but it is worth more than doubtful seed.

## BEDDING PLANTS.

	Per doz.
Alternanthera, for bed edging	1/6
Balsam, Camellia-Flowered	1/-
Bellis Perennis	1/-
Canterbury Bells, year old plants	3/6
Carnation, Margaret-Malmaison	2/6
Delphinium, Blue Butterfly	1/6
Gazania pinnata, beautiful yellow daisy	2/-
Gloxinia Seedlings, Finest Strain	3/6
Iresine, 3 varieties, for bed edging	1/6



**Bedding Plants (contd.)**

<b>Pansy</b> , Large-Flowered Mixed	...	...	1/-
<b>Petunia</b> , Mixed	...	...	1/6
<b>Pinks</b> , Semperflorens, Perpetual-Flowering	...	...	2/6
<b>Picotees</b> , Choice Mixed	...	...	1/6
<b>Phlox</b> Drummondii Cuspidata, Mixed	...	...	1/-
„ Drummondii Mixed	...	...	1/-
<b>Salvia</b> , Scarlet Flowering Sage	...	...	5/-
<b>Sweet William</b> , Auricula-Eyed	...	...	1/-
<b>Verbena</b> , Scarlet	...	...	2/-
<b>Violets</b> , Prince of Wales	...	...	1/6
<b>Wallflower</b> , Single Mixed	...	...	1/-
„ Double Mixed	...	...	1/-
„ Dark Brown	...	...	1/-

**MICHAELMAS DAISIES.**

	each	doz.
<b>Feltham Blue</b> , a full toned blue	6d.	4/6
<b>Lady Lloyd</b> , rose pink	6d.	4/6
<b>Mrs. H. Morris</b> , deep rosy red	6d.	4/6
<b>Nancy Ballard</b> , double, pale rosy mauve	6d.	4/6
<b>Small White</b>	...	1/-
<b>Small Mauve</b>	...	1/-

**REVISED PRICES.****Vegetable Seeds**

	Per oz	1/4 lb	lb.
Musk Melon, Banana	1/6	5/-	16/-
Tomato, Wood's Improved Beauty	2/6	8/6	30/-
Egg Plant, New York Spineless	2/6	8/6	30/-
„ Long Purple	2/-	6/-	22/6

	Per lb	25 lbs.	100 lbs.
Dwarf Beans, Mont D'Or Butter	1/9	37/6	140/-
„ White Scimitar	1/6	30/-	100/-

	Per 1/4 lb	lb	5 lbs
Carrot, Nantes Early Half Long	1/6	5/-	22/6
Tomato, Large Red Early	1/3	3/6	12/6

**Hardware**

Chaplet Wreaths in Dome Glass Cases, First Quality.

8in. 21/-; 10in. 30/-; 12in. 45/-; 14in. 75/-; 16in. 100/- each.

Lawn Mowers, Green's "Silens Messor," 12in. £10 10s. each, with Grass Box.

**APPRECIATIONS.**

"Last season my cucumbers from your seed were splendid and when still quite young were the size of Vegetable Marrows, everyone who saw them remarked on their size."

Houwhoek, C.P., 29.9.23.

"Your Meal is the best I have had in 20 years." Malelane, Eastern Transvaal, 28.6.23. This refers to our **Boer Meal** and we also mill **Country Households** at our Morreesburg Mills. These are ideal for Home Baking. You should try a bag of each.

"All seeds and plants I have got from you have done and are doing splendidly." Lauterwater, C.P., 23.11.23.

CORRECTION: Long Red Early Tomato  
Price per oz 1/3, 1/4 lb 3/6, 1 lb 12/6.



**PRICE LIST of SPARE PARTS**  
**for**  
**GREEN'S "SILENS" MESSOR LAWN MOWERS.**

	8in.	10in.	12in.	14in.	Pony 30in.	Horse 30in.	Horse 36in.
Cylinder ...	45/-	55/-	62/6	62/6			315/-
Driving Chain ...	17 6	17 6	17/6	18/6	47/6	52 6	52 6
Catch Wheel (right hand)...	1/9	2/-	2/6				
Catch Wheel (left hand) ...	1/9	2/-	2/6				
Catch Motion (right hand)	5/-	5/-	5/-				
Catch Motion (left hand)...	5/-	5/-	5/-				
Front Roller (wood) sets ...	3/6	4/-	4/9		20/-		67/6
Front Roller Fixing, RHd.	1/6	2/-	2/6	3/9	5/-		9/-
Front Roller Fixing, LHd.	1/6	2/-	2/6	3/9	5/-		9/-
Driving Wheel ...	6/-	6/-	6/-	7/6	22/6	22 6	22/6
Pinion ...	3/9	3/9	3/9	3/9	7/6	7/6	7/9
Catch Lever Tongue ...	2/6	2/6	2/6				
Wood Handles, pair ...	1/6	1/6	1/6				
Soleplate ...			12/6				
Bottom Blade ...	7/6	9/6	12/-	12/6	45/-	45/-	47/6
Drum Fixings, each ...	3/6	3/6	3/6		15/6	15/6	15/6
Cylinder Bushes (per set)	8/6	9/6	10 6	11/6	25/-		
Cylinder Cap...	1/6	1/6	1/6				
Drum Shaft Collar ...	1/6	1/6	1/6		3/-		3/6
Side Runners, each ...	1/6	1/6	1/6				
Front Roller Shafts ...	3/9	4/3	4/9	6/6			
Pin for Catch Lever Tongue	1/-	1/-	1/-				
Key for Chain Wheel ...	3d	3d	3d				
Adjusting Screw for Bushes	6d	6d	6d				
Screw for Cylinder Cap ...	6d	6d	6d				
Screw for Bottom Blade ...	3d	3d	3d				
Bolt and Nut for Chain ...	6d	6d	6d				
Drum Shaft ...	7/6	9/6	10/6	12/6	25/-		
Spanner ...			2/6				
Drums, per pair ...			33/-				
Screw for Catch Wheel ...	3d	3d	3d				
Cylinder Fixings, per pair							7/6
Drum Scrapers ...	5/6	6/-	7/6				

**ORDERS for LAWN MOWER PARTS**  
**may be sent to**  
**C. STARKE & CO., LTD., MOWBRAY, CAPE TOWN.**

**WANTED.**

**Small Flat Lentils.**—If you can offer these, please send a sample and state quantity available and your lowest price. It must be from the new crop. Don't forget to put your name and address on the sample as we are likely to receive a number of samples and would like to know which is yours.